BAF

PTO/SB/21 (09-04) Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ne Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Application Number 10/634.206 TRANSMITTAL Filing Date August 5, 2003 First Named Inventor **FORM** Russell Powers, et al. Art Unit 3738 **Examiner Name** Brian E. Pellegrino (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing) Attorney Docket Number MSDI-196/P934.00 Total Number of Pages in This Submission **ENCLOSURES** (Check all that apply) After Allowance Communication to TC Fee Transmittal Form Drawing(s) Appeal Communication to Board Licensing-related Papers Fee Attached of Appeals and Interferences Appeal Communication to TC ~ Petition (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) Amendment/Reply Petition to Convert to a **Proprietary Information** Provisional Application After Final Power of Attorney, Revocation Status Letter Affidavits/declaration(s) Change of Correspondence Address Other Enclosure(s) (please Identify Terminal Disclaimer below): **Extension of Time Request** Return Receipt Postcard Request for Refund **Express Abandonment Request** CD, Number of CD(s) Information Disclosure Statement Landscape Table on CD Certified Copy of Priority Remarks Document(s) Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT Firm Name Krieg-BeVault LLP Signature

## CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below: Signature Date November 22, 2006

Reg. No.

45,431

Printed name

Date

Brad A. Schepers

November 22, 2006

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS, SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

## In re patent application of: Powers et al. Serial No. 10/634,206 Filed August 5, 2003 PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE Before the Examiner Brian E. Pellegrino Group Art Unit 3738 Ref. No. MSDI-196/ PC934.00

SURGICAL KIT AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING STERILIZED EQUIPMENT )
FOR USE IN SPINAL SURGERY

November 22, 2006

## **RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action dated September 27, 2006, please enter and consider the following amendments and remarks. Please provide any extensions of time necessary and charge any additional fees which may be necessary to Deposit Account No. 12-2424, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

November 22, 2006

Date of Deposit

Brait A Schepers

Name of Recistered Representative

November 22, 2006

Date of Signature

## **INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Claims 3-28, 30, 31, 33-39 and 56-72 were pending in the subject application for the final Office Action. Each of the pending claims currently stands rejected. In view of the following amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are hereby requested.

Response to final Office Action Application Serial No. 10/634,206 Inventors: Powers et al.

Filing Date: August 5, 2003